disturbed the public order resulting in loss of life and property, besides thwarting the economic development of the State. The people are fed up with violence and yearn for peace. The Government of India is committed to the restoration of peace. The Government of India has also extended an invitation to all the militant groups to come forward for talks within the four corners of our Constitution. In pursuance of the said offer, the Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT) have suspended its operations against the Army, Para-Military Forces and the State Police. The BLT has also agreed to completely abjure the path of violence in both letter and spirit and not to indulge in any unlawful activities in case the Government of India announces suspension of operations against it.

In order to create an environment conducive to talks for finding a solution to the Bodo problem, the Government has decided to suspend operations against the BLT with immediate effect.

Effort are continuing to convince other militant groups in the North-East to suspend their violent and unlawful activities and come to the negotiating table.

Incident of Caste Violence in Kolar District of Karnataka on 11th March, 2000

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, yesterday in this House a mention was made of the violent incidents in Kolar district of Karnataka. In that connection, it was stated that the Home Ministry should obtain the facts and come to the House. We ascertained the facts from the State Government and on that basis I make the following statement.

As per information available with the Central Government, two incidents of violence and counter-violence between members of the Reddy community and the Scheduled Castes have been taken place in village Kambalapalli of Police Station Kencharlahalli in the District of Kolar, Karnataka. The incidents resulted in the stabbing and subsequent death of one Krishna Reddy and burning alive of seven members of the Scheduled Caste community.

The sequence of events reveals that on 11th March around 7.30 P.M. a group of 15-20 persons belonging to the Scheduled Caste community which

reportedly included two persons named Anjanappa and Sriramappa, stabbed one Krishna Reddy who died on the spot. In retaliation a group of 150-200 persons belonging to the Reddy community attacked the colony of the village inhabited by the Scheduled Caste community around 9.00 P.M. and set fire to the house belonging to Sriramappa and another adjoining house. Six persons, four men and two women, died on the spot due to suffocation and burn injuries and one lady succumbed to her injuries later on the way to hospital.

The immediate provocation for the murder of Krishna Reddy is reported to be a verbal altercation between the Reddys and the Scheduled Castes on 9th March on some trivial issue.

The State Police have arrested 15 persons in connection with the violence so far. Additional police force has also been stationed at the village as well as at the Divisional Headquarters at Chintamani and at District Headquarters, Kolar. Prohibitory orders have been enforced at Chintamani and Kambalapalli areas since 13th March, 2000. Investigations are on and senior police officials are supervising the investigation. The State Chief Minister, the State Home Minister and other leaders have visited the spot and assured protection to the remaining Scheduled Caste families and arranged relief operations. The Chief Minister has announced institution of a judicial inquiry into the incident. The Chief Minister has also announced *ex gratia* compensation of Rs.1 lakh to each, suitable employment to the next of kin of those killed, rehabilitation of the affected people and assured stringent action against those who were responsible for the heinous crimes.

The situation is currently reported to be tense but under control.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will take up clarifications at 5 o'clock. Now, before we take up the Special Mentions, Bill for introduction, Shri Suresh Prabhu.

THE INDIAN POWER ALCOHOL (REPEAL) BILL, 2000

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Indian Power Alcohol Act, 1948.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, I introduce the Bill.